



H.R. 2464 – The Wakefield Act

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2464 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT) on May 23, 2007. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote on March 13, 2008.

H.R. 2464 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 8, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 2464 extends the period which the Secretary of Health and Human Services may award grants made under the Emergency Medical Services for Children Grant Program by one year. The bill states the propose of the Grant Program is to reduce the rates of child mortality and morbidity when receiving emergency medical care in the U.S. through enhancing the pediatric capabilities of emergency medical centers and to ensure that Federal resources dedicated to enhancing child emergency care are used efficiently.

The bill authorizes \$25 million for 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for 2009 – 2011.

BACKGROUND

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are over 115 million visits to U.S. emergency departments every year, with almost 18 percent of these patients being children. In the U.S., only about 6 percent of hospitals have all of the pediatric supplies that the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Emergency Physicians have determined to be essential for managing pediatric emergencies. Of all U.S. hospitals, about half have 85 percent these listed supplies.

[CDC website for emergency department visits](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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